



means a speaker continues to speak and the other participants in the conversation choose not to take turns. However, the listener is not silent. A turn of speaker is not only constructed by the speaker him/herself, but also the listener. The listener contributes to the turn by uttering words like 'mm', 'okay' or 'yeah' and also by gestures including head movements such as nodding.

Response Tokens, based on the research of McCarthy (2003), are short utterances consists of a syllable, or a word, a phrase or a small sentence which uttered as a response of the primary speaker. Gardner (2005) said that they are difficult to describe, because most of them lack meaning in the standard common dictionary like Oxford dictionary. Response tokens often stand alone in a turn as single items. Because of that difficulty, Gardner (2005) also stated that not many researchers considered response tokens as their object of research. It is further provided by a fact that even linguists interested in pragmatics and language-in use have struggled to provide adequate and convincing descriptions of response tokens. He added that this is especially true of more conventional linguistic approaches to the study of a language in some regions.

Gardner (2005) said that the most widely used term is probably 'minimal responses'. In his book, he includes the sub-types of 'minimal responses' such as continuers, acknowledgement and newsmarkers into response tokens. Yngve (1970)'s term of 'backchannels' which includes not only minimal tokens but also clarification questions is also included in Gardner' book (2005) as response tokens.

There is an argument conveyed by McCarthy (1991) about the practical use of response tokens. He said that if we use response tokens like *yeah* or *mm* with the purpose of giving attention to the speaker, we cannot use those words to interrupt the speaker, thus wait until the speaker finish his/her talk. McCarthy said that it is linguistic means of not taking the turn when one has the opportunity, or simply of making it clear to the speaker that we are attending to the message.

Response tokens cannot be used to initiate a conversation. It requires common expectations among participants about its appropriateness and a common willingness to take part in the talk. Response token, though thematically considered unimportant, is an essential aspect of conversation in that it provides a means of 'easing things along' (Schneider 1988).

People cannot arrange the amount of response tokens in their talk. They occurs naturally where in one sequence of conversation there are many response tokens but in another sequence of talk they hardly appear. This is proved in a research conducted by Jefferson (1984) in Gardner (2005). She found that some speakers of English use both *Hmm* and *Yeah*, whilst others use very few *Hmms*.

A research by Gardner (2005) has found that each response tokens is used in different ways from others, and that each is a variable, multifunctional token in its own right. Gardner said that this variability can be extreme, to the extent that speakers regularly utter nonce words such as *Nyem*, *Nyuh*, which appear to be blends of more standard versions - like *hmm* or *huh* - of the tokens.









